



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, December 17, 2010

For Information Contact:**Public Affairs**

(202) 514-6933

http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Press_Releases/index.html

Maryland Man Sentenced to 18 Years in Prison For Murder of Visitor From Alabama

WASHINGTON - Kevin Anthony Brown, 23, was sentenced today to 18 years of incarceration on charges stemming from the April 2007 murder of a 21-year-old Alabama man who had been in town to visit friends, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Brown, of La Plata, Maryland, was convicted by a jury in May 2010 of second degree murder while armed and related firearms offenses in the killing of Leonard Branham. He was sentenced today by the Honorable Judge Ronna L. Beck.

According to the government's evidence, on April 14, 2007, Leonard Branham, who was visiting here from Birmingham, Ala., and his friends attended a birthday party in Northeast Washington. Afterward, he and four others drove to Southeast Washington to drop off a friend so that she could rendezvous with her boyfriend. On the way, two women in the vehicle argued over a cigarette. By all accounts, the argument was petty and fueled by alcohol.

When the group arrived at their destination, the woman getting dropped off entered the nearby apartment building to see her boyfriend, John Francis. Meanwhile, Mr. Branham attempted to break up the fight between the two other women. One of the women involved in the fight felt mistreated, and she went to the apartment and requested assistance.

At this point, the government evidence showed, John Francis came outside and attacked Mr. Branham. As the two men fought, John Francis's associate, Kevin Brown, came out of the apartment and fired a gun. Mr. Branham ran away as Brown fired a second shot, striking Mr. Branham in the back. Mr. Branham died a short time later.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department Detectives Kimberly Lawrence, Harbin Combee and Antonio Duncan. He also praised the work of Mobile Crime Officer Curtis Lancaster who handled the crime scene evidence. He expressed thanks to Marian Russell, Shannon Alexis, Thomas Royal, Paul Howell

and Kimberly Smith of the U.S. Attorney's Office, who were invaluable in assisting with the investigation, exhibit preparation and other litigation support. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed special appreciation to Victim/Witness Advocate Marcy Rinker, who worked closely with the victim's family and other witnesses, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Seth Waxman and Jelahn Stewart, who prosecuted the case.

10-355

###